

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, May 4, 1995

Published Since 1877

## Miss. State BSU'ers head to Honduras for break

A total of 24 students from the Mississippi State University Baptist Student Union (BSU) were involved in a spring break mission project to Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Team members were: Bonnie Barker, Madison; Joey Beeson, Brookhaven; Coleman Boyd, Clinton; Charlie Buntyn, Clinton; Keith Cox, Booneville; Jill Dearman, Brandon; Kristen Evans, Douglasville, Ga.; Jennifer Halfacre, Winona; Jemmye Ann Helms, Maben; Michael and Tanya Kelly, Duck Hill; Veronica Taylor, Duck Hill; David Kennedy, Picayune; Chad Polk, Picayune; Lee Mills, Corinth; Rob Smith, DeKalb; Carmen Stout, Jackson; Melanie Tiffin, Starkville; Lisa Vanderford,

Kosciusko; Ashley Wallace, Tupelo; Jennifer Wallace, Brookhaven; Gregg Wheat, Poplarville; Brad White, Pheba; and June Scoggins, Starkville.

The project was sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Honduras Partnership of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The team's host missionaries were Carl and Martha Rees, Howie and Marvinna Hooper; and Russell and Elaine Patterson.

Half of the students participated in a religious emphasis week at Academia Los Pinares, a bilingual school with approximately 600 students. The BSU students led four chapel services daily; a teachers' Bible study and

prayer time; assisted in the classrooms; and conducted a basketball workshop.

The group also visited a boys' detention center and led devotional and recreational activities.

Charlie Buntyn, who participated at Los Pinares, commented, "Life is so simple in Honduras, and it is great to take a week and forget about all of the busyness in our lives here at home and concentrate on nothing but sharing the love of Jesus Christ with others."

Melanie Tiffin added, "I can still see each child and how big their eyes got when we sang songs with them or played soccer with them. At times I catch that sweet aroma the little boys at the detention center had after a day of hard play. Most of all I remember a little boy named Ben who came running to me on Friday crying, 'Miss Melanie, if you close your eyes and think of me back in the States, and I close my eyes and think of you, it's just like we're together.'"

"My hope is there with the children in Honduras and there is no doubt in my heart that God will send me back."

The other 12 students worked in evangelism with the LaJoya Baptist Church and the Baptist University Student ministry.

The students went door-to-door sharing the gospel; led chapel services five times in area schools and worship services; visited students; and distributed New Testaments and tracts at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Honduras.

Bonnie Barker commented, "I learned that God's power knows no limitations and his love sees no boundaries. It is our responsibility



Chad Polk (back, left) and Lisa Vanderford (right), both Mississippi State University Baptist Student Union members, help young students with their puzzles at La Joya Baptist Church in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, during their recent mission trip to that country.

to share Jesus with those we come in contact with so that their heart may be made complete."

Rob Smith said, "God showed me, during this trip, that even though I may feel inadequate and unworthy of carrying on his work, he is always constant and never changes. If we just allow him to take control, all of the inadequacies will diminish."

"God really blessed me with many new friends and wonderful experiences in seeing him change people's lives."

To add to the excitement of the week, the entire team fought a forest fire on Wednesday afternoon.

The fire, which surrounded a host home, was extinguished and the next day it rained over an inch in Tegucigalpa — during dry season.

Jennifer Halfacre called home in the midst of the fire and asked for special prayer for the team and the situation.

"We know that God is in control of all things," stated June Scoggins, associate director of the BSU. "It was a fantastic week. We saw God work in so many different experiences. It was thrilling to see someone hear about the saving grace of Jesus Christ and desire a personal relationship with him."



Rob Smith (back, left) and Jill Dearman (kneeling, front center) were two of the Mississippi State University Baptist Student Union members who visited a boys' detention center while on a mission trip to Honduras. The group also visited schools and fought a forest fire during their stay in the Central American country. (Photos courtesy of Mississippi State University BSU.)

### Charged up!

First Church, Ludlow, Ky., has been using 9-volt batteries to get folks ready for the "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You." revival campaign in their community. Church members have been going door-to-door giving away fresh batteries to replace worn-out ones in smoke detectors. They also leave Christian tracts and cards. "People who have received the batteries so far have been overwhelmed by the gift," said pastor Tommy Mitchell. "We have one member who offered to buy smoke detectors... if someone says they don't have one.... This gets people to understanding that Christianity has a practical side to it," he explained. Church members have cleaned dirty windshields and dropped coins in expired parking meters, along with a note of explanation and a map to the church. They have also mailed more than 250 letters to people who dropped out of Sunday School. As a result, the church welcomed 15 professions of faith before revival services even started. "We're thrilled.... We've already had a successful 'Here's Hope.' effort, if we don't do anything else," Mitchell said.

### Elevating the church

Things are looking up — literally — for two-year-old Cheraw Church in Cheraw, Colo. Pastor Terry Schwartz and a local attorney had their eye on the 90-foot-tall abandoned grain elevator in the center of town, but legal entanglements and missing property heirs dampened their chances of turning the home for pigeons into a home for the church. Perseverance led to the heirs, however, and providence led the heirs to donate the entire property to the church, which counts 34 members. The basement is already being used for Bible study, and the Baptist Sunday School Board's architecture services division has provided plans for a two-phase renovation/building project. Volunteer church builders from Alabama, Tennessee, and Texas have offered to help in the effort. Schwartz said he believes the \$60,000 needed for materials will be "no problem. If God can give us 3.2 acres of land, he can provide the money." As proof, Schwartz points to the double-wide mobile home on the new property that serves as his family's residence. "He makes payments on it every month," Schwartz said.

### Looking Back...

#### 10 years ago

Topisaw Church in Lincoln County honors Pearl Reeves for 70 years of active and continuous service, having been baptized in 1915 at the age of 13 in Topisaw Creek just behind the home in which she was born and still resides.

#### 20 years ago

Final preparations are underway for the Billy Graham Crusade in Jackson, including recruiting more than 1,000 ushers, 1,500 counselors, and a mass choir drawn from hundreds of Baptist churches and other denominations in Mississippi.

#### 50 years ago

Less than one year after being organized, Friendship Church, Kreole, more than triples its membership and dedicates its new church facility debt-free on a Sunday that saw four new additions to the church roll.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## The Howell W. Todd era

Howell Wayne Todd assumed the presidency of Mississippi College July 1, 1994. He has been on the move since then. In fact, he believes that Mississippi College is on the move.

"He has spoken in our association," or "He spoke in our city," are comments we often hear. This past week in a flurry of activity, Todd was inaugurated as president of Mississippi College.

Howell Todd is an educated man. He received a bachelor of science degree from University of Tennessee-Martin, a master of science at the University of Mississippi, and a doctor of philosophy in mathematics from the University of Illinois.

He is a working man — he puts in long hours and stays with a task until it is done. He is a people person — he knows the value of friendship and cultivates friends. In parts of the Magnolia State they would say, "He wears well." He is

also an administrator in knowing how to lead people, administer higher education, and deal with faculty and students.

He is a Christian and believes the Holy Spirit directed his footsteps in coming to Mississippi College. He seems to have an appreciation for the heritage of MC and respect for those who sacrificed to establish the college.

I read again this week McLemore's book on the History of Mississippi College. It is good that someone preserved this long history which began in 1826. Several times the school was dying out but somehow, somebody stepped into the breach. Examples of sacrifice by faculty and students abounded. For four years there were few students. In 1861 the Mississippi College Rifles were organized and fought as a unit during the entire War Between the States.

Hardship, deprivation, and sac-

rice carved the stones and laid the bricks for post-war rebuilding. Year by year, the school grew stronger. Today it stands ready to move into the next century with the same spirit of dedication.

A few years ago a graduate sent a letter to MC: "This is just a letter of sincere gratitude for four years as a student at Mississippi College.... I wouldn't be truthful if I said I loved everything about MC, but I do love MC! If I had the choice of a college to make again, I wouldn't hesitate to be back in my blue and gold beanie.... MC's biggest asset is her people! That covers a wide range of individuals from the timid freshman to the top administrators. I doubt that I will ever again be a part of such a friendly, unique, and concerned 'family.'"

Welcome, Dr. Howell Todd, to the "family." We are convinced that the finest days of MC are before us.

## Use 1995 election to change politicians' pro-gambling tilt

By William B. Alexander

It's election time again. We will elect a governor, a lieutenant governor, and all members of the legislature in 1995. If we go to sleep, some bad things could happen and some good things won't happen.

Recently, the state Supreme Court ruled that when the law says casino gambling should be located on the Gulf Coast and the Mississippi River, it means just that. The law does not mean a casino could be located on a tributary of the Gulf or the Mississippi River or that it could be built on a man-made canal.

The first thing that we need to do is commit each of the above persons (running for office) to oppose and vote against any enlargement of the present law which would permit casinos to be built inland.

The second thing we need for them to do is commit to permitting people in counties which have authorized casino gambling to take another vote to see if they still want it.

The law is that counties can have almost an unlimited number of elections and can vote time after time on casino gambling, but once they have approved casino gambling they cannot have another vote.

You read a lot of articles quoting restaurant owners, store own-

ers, and others about being disillusioned concerning the economic effects of casino gambling.

Also, you read about the increase in crime which has resulted. The people in the affected counties deserve another chance to get rid of casino gambling.

Finally, we need to commit these people (running for office) to a repeal of the statutes authorizing casino gambling.

A few years ago some people were jumping up and down to get the lottery put on a statewide ballot.

They passed through the legislature an initiative process which says that if about 86,000 people scattered around the state petition for an election on any subject, it will be put on the ballot. We have one of these votes coming up in

November on term limits.

As the harmful effects of casino gambling, including the almost total corruption of the political process in our state, become more evident, we can use the initiative process to have a statewide vote to get rid of casino gambling once and for all.

In the meantime, we have this election upon us. It is my hope that every person in Mississippi who is against casino gambling will let his or her thoughts be known to the candidates and hopefully get commitments from them before the primary election vote on Aug. 8.

Alexander is former president pro tempore of the Mississippi State Senate and a member of First Church, Cleveland.

## Number of BSSB videos receive '95 Telly recognition

NASHVILLE (BP) — Six videos produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board — four episodes of the "Secret Adventures" video series for children and two youth Sunday School videos — have been cited in the 1995 Telly Awards competition.

An international competition, the Telly Awards recognize outstanding non-network and cable television commercials, film, and video productions. More than

8,600 entries were received in this year's competition.

Two "Secret Adventures" episodes, "Smash" and "Shrug," received the silver Telly award. "Secret Adventures" is produced by the board's Broadman & Holman Publishers in association with Taweel-Loos & Co.

Receiving the bronze Telly or finalist award were two other "Secret Adventures" episodes, "Snag" and "Slam."



THE FRAGMENTS

## The Convention and messengers

Last year 1,065 messengers from Mississippi registered at the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla. Five of our churches had the full quota of 10 messengers each; one church sent nine; two churches sent eight; six churches had seven; 13 churches sent six; 13 sent five; 47 churches sent four; 37 churches had three; 208 churches had two messengers; and 90 churches sent one messenger each. Of the 1,975 churches in Mississippi, 422 sent messengers.

Florida, the host state, had 3,440 messengers, followed by Georgia with 2,019. Seven states had more messengers than Mississippi, and all 50 states were represented. There was a total of 20,370 messengers.

In the messenger survey, 11,728 (42% of whom were female) completed the form. Less than 2% were under 18. Almost

75% came by automobile. About 10% spent less than \$100 per day, though the majority spent from \$200 to \$500 per day. About 70% were staff members of churches. Homemakers and "others" were the larger groups following the staff members.

At the time of election of the SBC president, 90% of the registered messengers (19,868) voted. There were 8,881 messengers who voted in the second vice-president election. Later 8,072 (39%) voted on the motion "not to receive Cooperative Baptist (CBF) funds"; 4,730 or 58% favored the motion, and 3,342 — or 41% — voted "no."

This year about 25,000 are expected to attend the Atlanta convention. Probably 1,500 will be from Mississippi churches. The convention will meet in New Orleans in 1996, Dallas in 1997, and Salt Lake City in 1998.

— GH

ville-based production specialist who served as writer and creative consultant.

Metcalf said "In Search of..." combines a comedic story line with "real-life" interviews, outlining "10 Ways to Grow a Youth Sunday School."

"Youth Life Issues Video Clips, Vol. 1" provides 10 brief segments on "some of the most critical life issues faced by youths," Metcalf said.

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# SBC President Henry shares hopes, expectations, concerns

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry said in Jackson April 28 that he believes God is moving as revival breaks out across the nation.

"The sparks are there. The Holy Spirit is speaking to his people," Henry told a group of Mississippi College supporters gathered for breakfast at First Church, Jackson, prior to the inauguration of Howell W. Todd as the 18th president of the Baptist-affiliated school in Clinton.

Henry and Todd are old friends from their days together at Two Rivers Church in Nashville, where Henry was pastor and Todd was a deacon and choir member.

Henry, now pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., congratulated the school on the selection of Todd. He described Todd as a man

who "embodies the heart and soul of who Southern Baptists are."

Henry also said he is in favor of the convention-wide restructuring plan, commonly known as the Brister report, that will be voted on by messengers to the denomination's annual meeting June 20-22 in Atlanta.

"The Brister report is exciting. I'm supporting it, but I didn't come here to sell it. There is a growing sense in the ranks that changes need to be made."

"It never hurts to look inside; it will be healthy," Henry pointed out.

Henry also said he believes the members of the Program and Structure Study Committee who designed the Brister report were sincere in their efforts to restructure the Southern Baptist Convention for the 21st century.

"If there is an ax to grind, I didn't see it," he stressed.

Henry listed a number of his concerns for the future of the Southern Baptist Convention:

— Levels of giving to Southern Baptist causes. "The struggle has had an impact, but there's more. There is the materialism of our culture; the Baby Boomers need a change of

lifestyle. We haven't stressed tithing from the pulpit."

— Diversity. "We have a big, wide umbrella. One of our biggest challenges is understanding each other."

— Talent drain. "I get the sense that some of our finest young people are going elsewhere for seminary education. We've got to keep our best for the future."

— Fall-out among pastors and church staff. "We lost 2,000 last year. We must help our people deal with the challenges (of church work)."

— Denominational loyalty.

"There is a constant influx of people who don't know about Southern Baptists."

— Trust. "There's a lack of trust among us, and that is a burden on my heart."

— Ignorance of polity and doctrine among the 15 million Southern Baptists. "We must address this if we are to move forward."

Henry said he is heartened by the "great love" for the Southern Baptist Convention that he sees as he travels the nation.

"Missions, evangelism, and authority of the Scripture have held us together," he said.



Henry

materialism of our culture; the Baby Boomers need a change of

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

## The Baptist Record

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### MC president Todd pledges to nurture "guiding principles"

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Howell W. Todd was inaugurated April 28 as Mississippi College's 18th president, surrounded by a who's who of state and national Southern Baptist leaders — many of whom graduated from the Baptist-affiliated school in Clinton.

"I pledge my persistent energy and efforts to ensure that my stewardship of this 169-

year-old matriarch of Baptist higher education is one of vision, of integrity, of compassion, and of sound management. I insist we have some fun along the way," Todd told the 1,700 people present at the inaugural convocation in the sanctuary of First Church, Jackson.

Todd spoke of maintaining the

"guiding principles" of the school:

— Superb academics. "We are blessed with a lot of outstanding and productive scholars who just happen to be 'salt of the earth' people."

— Spiritual atmosphere. "I firmly believe that a superb academic program can coexist harmoniously and in complementary fashion with a healthy spiritual environment."

— The students, MC's reason for being. "We love our young men and women, and believe me, they are easy to love."

Jim Henry, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., recalled the close friendship that developed between the two men when Henry was pastor of Two Rivers Church in Nashville and Todd was a deacon there.

Quoting the Old Testament book of Ezekiel, Henry told the crowd, "God has his man to 'stand in the gap.' You have inaugurated a visionary and a leader."

Kosciusko native Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in Nashville and a 1963 graduate of the college, welcomed Todd to the school and said, "I am proud to be a Choctaw."

Former Clinton resident Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and MC graduate, could not attend due to a scheduling conflict but sent by letter his commendation on Todd's ascension to the institution's top job.

Stephen Carleton, representing the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, described MC as a "flagship insti-

tution" in Southern Baptist life.

Also delivering remarks at the convocation were:

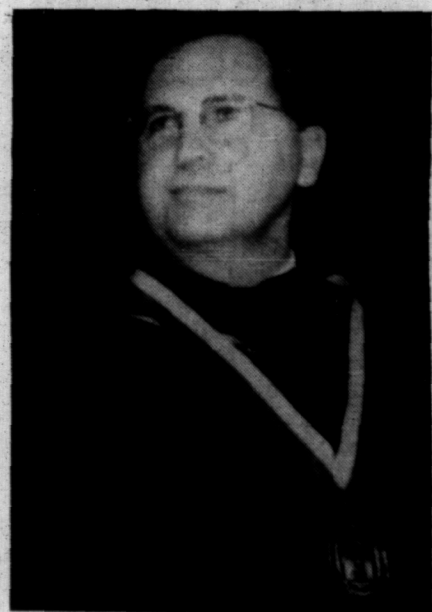
— Rex Yancey, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

— Ray Cleere, Mississippi Commissioner of Higher Education.

— Donald Zacharias, president of Mississippi State University.

— Jeanne Forrester, education advisor to Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice.

Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, offered the invocation. Mississippian Jerry Clower, country humorist and Grand Ole Opry star, delivered the benediction.



**New Mississippi College President Howell W. Todd** pauses to accept applause moments after his investiture with the bronze and gold presidential medallion. The medallion, which symbolizes the authority and responsibility of the office, was specially designed for the inauguration.



Mississippi College faculty members and academic friends queue for the procession into the sanctuary of First Church, Jackson, to honor Howell W. Todd, inaugurated April 28 as the 18th president of Mississippi College in Clinton. (Photographs by William H. Perkins Jr.)

### Jackson won't teach at SBTS; school tells why

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Evangelist Richard Jackson says he backed out of an agreement to teach a short-term course at Southern Seminary to protest actions by seminary President Albert Mohler.

Recent decisions to "terminate faculty members who will not adhere to a specified creed followed by the public reprimand of adult students who took action against such anti-Baptist decisions have stirred within me a personal conviction that simply will not allow me to fill the July 17-21 teaching position," Jackson wrote in an April 24 letter to David Dockery, vice president for academic administration at the seminary.

But seminary officials say Jackson was never invited to teach at the school in Louisville, Ky. Jackson was contacted about teaching a one-week course on "Evangelistic Preaching" at Boyce Bible School, a division of Southern Seminary, but was never offered a contract, Dockery was quoted as saying in a seminary news release dated April 28.

The news release said Jackson was not invited to teach "in part" because he refused to sign the Abstract of Principles, the seminary's founding document.

"I will never sign a contract or approve for instruction any person who refuses to sign the Abstract of

Principles," Mohler said. Mohler said he also would not employ persons who have publicly supported the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship "or any other group opposed to the Southern Baptist Convention."

Jackson called the seminary's response ridiculous. If he wasn't invited to teach, Jackson asked, then why was he asked to sign the Abstract? "The last thing they said to me was, 'You don't have to sign it,'" Jackson insisted.

Meanwhile both the seminary and Jackson accused the other of leaking the letter to the press.

### Mississippi churches give 2% more than 1994 through CP

Mississippi Baptists gave \$1,629,853 through the Cooperative Program in April, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which distributes the funds.

The April amount is \$155,110 less than that given in April of 1994.

The total for the first four months of 1995 is \$7,696,701, which is \$178,595, or 2.38%, more than that given in the first third of 1994.

The Cooperative Program budget, voted by messengers to

the Mississippi Baptist Convention each year, is \$22,606,579 for 1995. On a pro rata basis, current giving is ahead by \$161,175, or 2.14%. The pro rata amount through April is \$7,535,526. That amount is figured by dividing the total budget by 12 and multiplying by the number of months elapsed.

Cooperative Program funds given in Mississippi go toward such programs as church and associational leadership training, camping experiences for children and teenagers, child care, and higher education.



Chapman





## State churches receive Eagles

Park Place Church, Brandon, and Trinity Church, Southaven, were honored with Eagle awards at the recent State Growth Spiral Conference. The awards — Trinity's seventh and Park Place's third — are given to churches which show a net Sunday School enrollment increase of 182, and foster growth through various support efforts. Jim Butler (from left), pastor, and John Miller, minister of education, received Trinity's award from Ken Marler, growth consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board. John Renfroe, Park Place associate pastor, represented the church and its pastor, Bobby Williamson (not pictured), at the conference. Keith Wilkinson is director of the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## New Life hosts VBS clinic for black workers

The Black Church Extension of the Missions Extension/Associational Administration and the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) will sponsor a Vacation Bible School clinic for African-American churches.



Cloud

Vacation Bible Schools.

The clinic will be held May 6 at New Life Church in Jackson, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Charles Thurman is New Life pastor.

## Gospel singing to benefit burn center in Greenville

"Mississippi's Greatest Ever Gospel Singing" to benefit the Fire Fighters Memorial Burn Center in Greenville is slated to begin at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, in the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson, according to producer Earl Aycock Sr., an insurance executive and member of Highland Park Church in Meridian.

"This will be a night reminiscent of the National Quartet Convention with seven of gospel music's hottest talents. Ticket sales have already been brisk and we anticipate a capacity crowd," Aycock said.

"The talent lineup reads like a who's who in gospel music with Charles Johnson and the Revivers; The Greenes, The Perry Sisters; Perfect Heart; Tony Gore and Majesty; The Pfeiffers; and Gold

Olivia Cloud, coordinator of black church development in the Multicultural Church Leadership Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will lead the clinic. Cloud is former executive director of Capitol Area Ministries, Inc., urban ministry in Atlanta. She is a graduate of the University of Kentucky at Lexington and Southern Seminary in Louisville.

The Baptist Book Store in Jackson will be on hand at New Life Church to sell Urban Ministries VBS materials, designed exclusively for African-American churches. The material kits are \$35 each.

The clinic and the noon meal are free. No pre-registration is required.

For more information, call Dick Brogan or Larry Salter at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson, (800) 748-1651.

City," he added.

The evening is being sponsored by the Mississippi Fire Fighters Association and the Mississippi Fire Chiefs Association. Proceeds will go to support the burn center.

General admission tickets are \$12 per person. For more information, call (601) 353-0603.

## U.S. Marshal confirms...

# Nobles soon to be released, transferred to Mississippi

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Former Mississippi College president Lewis Nobles will soon return to Mississippi from the federal prison facility in Springfield, Missouri, where he has been undergoing mental evaluation for the past two months.

Ike Durr, U.S. Marshal for Mississippi's southern district, said May 2 that Nobles was scheduled to be transported to Jackson May 3, but he released no other details for security reasons.

Brad Pigott, U.S. Attorney in Jackson, publicly confirmed late last week that he will seek to have Nobles confined without bond when marshals return him to Mississippi.

Al Jeannerett, chief deputy U.S. Marshal in Jackson, said once Nobles is back in the state, he will be placed in a federally-approved local jail somewhere in Mississippi.

The Madison County Jail in Canton and the Simpson County Jail in Mendenhall are used extensively to house federal prisoners who appear in U.S. District Court in Jackson.

Nobles was scheduled for trial Feb. 7 on a 21-count federal indictment that charged him with

using donations intended for the Baptist-affiliated institution in Clinton to allegedly commit money laundering, mail fraud, tax evasion, and illegal interstate acts of immorality.

A federal fugitive warrant was issued for Nobles when he failed to appear at a Jan. 26 pre-trial hearing.

Pigott has previously declined to confirm or deny reports that Nobles intended to plead guilty at the Jan. 26 hearing to at least some of the charges in a plea bargain arrangement.

Nobles was located about 13 hours later in an upscale San Francisco hotel with a "substantial amount of cash," according to Woody Johnson, special agent in charge of the Jackson FBI office.

Nobles collapsed in the hotel room and was rushed to a local hospital where he underwent emergency surgery to repair internal damage caused when he allegedly swallowed an unspici-

fied poison as FBI agents knocked on the hotel room door.

He underwent a second surgery in San Francisco and also suffered what Ben Nash of Clinton, his physician son-in-law, described in a recent court hearing as "metabolic encephalopathy" — changes in the structure of the brain — that rendered him incapable of remembering his name, and barely recognizing his wife and daughter.

## Chaplains to celebrate anniversary

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptist chaplains and pastoral counselors will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Home Mission Board and Southern Baptist Convention during their annual convocation June 19.

The meeting, scheduled one day before the SBC annual meeting, will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta.

Guest speakers include James L. Sullivan, retired Baptist Sunday School Board president, and Bill Pinson, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Lunch will be served during the meeting. Participants are asked to register by calling the HMB chaplaincy division at (404) 898-7440.

## Chaplains conduct annual May 12 retreat, Gulfshore

The Mississippi Baptist Chaplains' Association will meet for their annual retreat May 12-13 at Gulfshore Assembly.

Randall W. Turner, pastor of First Church, Laurel, will address the group during three sessions under the theme, "Vision: Looking to the 21st Century."

Turner is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He has served on several committees and boards of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, including one term as president of the Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference. Prior to his service at First, Laurel,

he was pastor of Parkway Church, Natchez.

Lamar Trawick, retired chaplain from Alabama, will conduct the music for the group's meetings.

All endorsed chaplains serving in Mississippi are invited to participate in the retreat. For more information or to register, call the Missions Extension/Associational Administration Department at (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson, (800) 748-1651.



Turner

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## CLARKE COLLEGE 1995 HOMECOMING SATURDAY, MAY 13

**8:30-10:15 a.m.** — Registration (continental breakfast)  
Fine Arts Building

**9:15-10:15** — Class/Group Reunions

**10:30-12 p.m.** — CELEBRATION  
Singspiration, Special Music  
Testimony: **Dr. Woodrow Burt** (class of 1966)  
president, Hannibal-LaGrange  
Message: **Dr. Gordon Sansing** (class of 1936)  
Memorial Moments: Rev. J.B. Costlow (class of 1954)

**12-1:30** — Lunch on your own  
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**1:30 p.m.** — Alumni Association Business Meeting  
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN, 10:30-12

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# HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

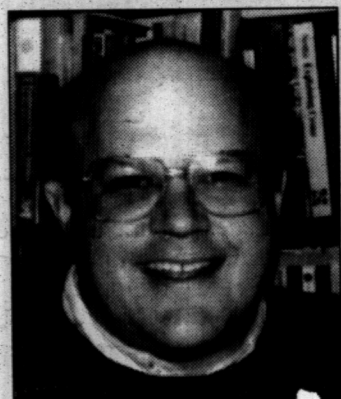
May 4, 1995

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

KATHY TROCCOLI



DUFFY ROBBINS



KINDRED HEART



## '95 YOUTH NIGHT

*"Challenging Today's Youth  
For Christ"*

**Mississippi Baptist Youth Night**  
Friday, July 28  
Mississippi Memorial Stadium

7 p.m. Program Begins

**A LOVE OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED**

(A gift of \$1.00 per person is suggested)

Interpretation for the deaf will be provided in the Stadium

A Ministry of your Cooperative Program  
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD  
Bill Causey, Executive Director/Treasurer  
Eugene Dobbs, Administrative Assistant for Ministry  
Matt Buckles, Chairman, YOUTH NIGHT Committee

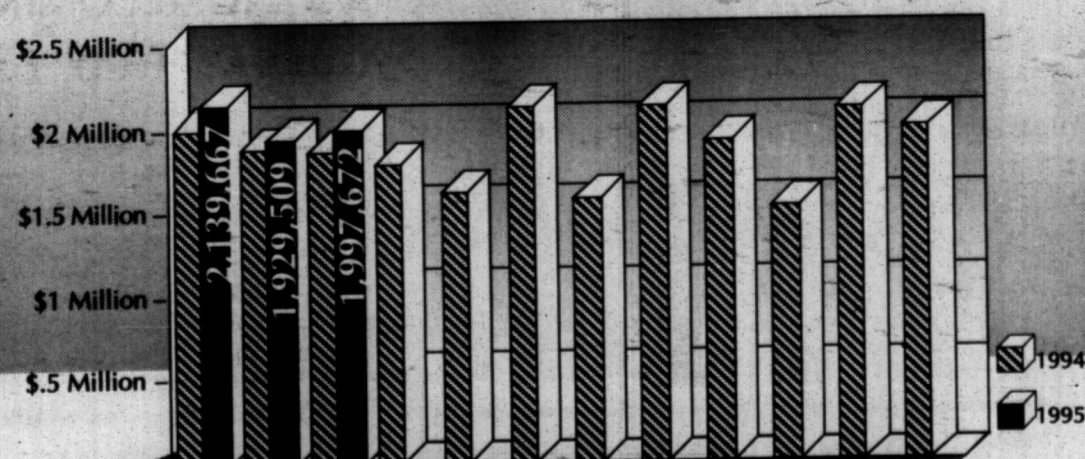
Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus

Summer is closer than you might think, which means exciting retreats at Gulfshore will be starting soon. Peruse this week's **HOUSE TOPS** for special conferences and retreats for your church, family, youth, singles and seniors.

### Gulfshore Schedule 1995

May 18-20	I Senior Adult Conference (D&FM)
May 22-24	II Senior Adult Conference (D&FM)
May 25-27	III Senior Adult Conference (D&FM)
May 27-29	Single Adult Conference (D&FM)
May 29-June 2	I Youth Conference
June 2-6	II Youth Conference
June 6-10	III Youth Conference
June 10-14	IV Youth Conference
June 15-19	V Youth Conference
June 19-23	VI Youth Conference
June 23-27	Young Musicians Conference (CM)
June 27-July 1	HeartSong '95 (CM)
July 3-6	Family Enrichment Conference (D&FM)
July 6-8	I GROWING CHURCHES FOR TOMORROW: A Conference for Training All Church Leaders (MBCB)
July 10-12	II GROWING CHURCHES FOR TOMORROW: A Conference for Training All Church Leaders (MBCB)
July 13-15	Music Leadership Conference (CM)
July 15-20	I Centrifuge (BSSB)
July 20-22	III GROWING CHURCHES FOR TOMORROW: A Conference for Training All Church Leaders (MBCB)
July 22-27	II Centrifuge (BSSB)
July 27-29	IV GROWING CHURCHES FOR TOMORROW: A Conference for Training All Church Leaders (MBCB)
July 29-August 3	III Centrifuge (BSSB)

### Cooperative Program Giving Year-to-date, March 1995





# Grandparenting by Grace

1995

## Senior Adult Retreats

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

May 18-20 • May 22-24 • May 25-27

"The best grandparenting university is God's Holy Word and each other." While "Grandparenting by Grace" is targeted toward grandparents, it will be helpful to any senior adult. Its focus is upon improving relationships. All of us need to improve our relationships with ourselves, our friends and our family.

You will love the presentation style of Irene Endicott and Dennis Lyle. Time will fly as we discover new ways to think and to act in our significant relationships.

It is the prayer of Discipleship and Family Ministry Department that every church can offer the course of study, "Grandparenting by Grace." Grandparents and senior adults of all ages will enjoy the study.

COST for each three-day retreat, including meals and lodging, is \$75.00. Send your name and address, along with a \$30 deposit, to: Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571. Be sure to indicate *Grandparenting by Grace* and the date of the retreat you will be attending.

## Take the INITIATIVE! Singles Retreat 2

### May 27-29, 1995 Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Canoe • Hike • Fish  
Witness • Golf • Tennis  
Beach Recreation • Sail  
Tour • Worship  
Crafts • Drama...

These are just a few of the exciting conferences and activities planned for the Single Adult Retreat at Gulfshore.

#### FEATURED PERSONALITIES INCLUDE:

**FISHWORKS**—a drama team from FBC, Atlanta, that will be sharing Christ's love in fun and exciting skits you will be sure to enjoy.

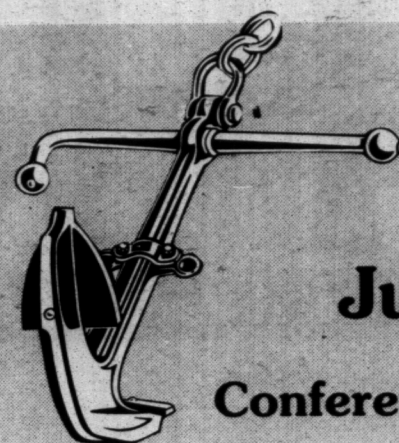
**SUSAN CLARK**—youth music/drama consultant for the Church Music Department, MBCB, and minister of music and youth at Dry Creek BC, Florence.

#### COST:

"A" Unit - \$80.90 (per person, two in a room)

"C" Unit - \$74.90 (per person, three or more in a room)

Prices include lodging, meals and a "Take the Initiative 2" T-shirt. Mail registration, including your name, address, phone number and a \$30 deposit to: Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571. BE SURE TO INDICATE **TAKE THE INITIATIVE 2**.



1995

July 6-

Conferences for

#### SESSION I 7:45 p.m.

Swap Shop for  
Preschool/Children's  
Workers

Hymn Leading in Worship

Baptist Men on Mission

The ABC's of Church  
Budgeting and Promotion

How To Discover and Use  
Your Spiritual Gifts

Start Something New

Sunday School General  
Officers

Organizing A Discipleship  
Training Program

WIN School

Leading An Exciting Bible  
Study

Planning to Meet Youth  
Needs

Women On Missions

Ethical Issues and Answers  
for Today's Adults

Pastors

Secretaries

Equipping Deacons as  
Partners in Ministry

#### SESSION II 8:30 a.m.

Preparing Older  
Preschoolers for Work

Using the Bible with  
Preschoolers

Making Music with C

What Do I Do... As a  
in Action Leader?

Sharing God's Special  
with Older Children

Keeping Boys and Girls  
Bible Drills

Teaching Old Dogs...  
Adults Really Learn?

Ministering To The F

WIN School

Youth Outreach Ideas  
Really Work

Creative Approaches  
Discipling Youth

Pastors

Baptist Men on Miss

#### July 6-8 —

Preacher: Bill Cau

Pastor's Conference

Jim Futral

Music Leader:

Mike Harland

#### COST PER PERSON (Room and Meals):

Class "A" Accommodations (2 per room)

Class "C" Accommodations (3 or more)

For more information about the 1995 Grow

# HOUSE TOPS

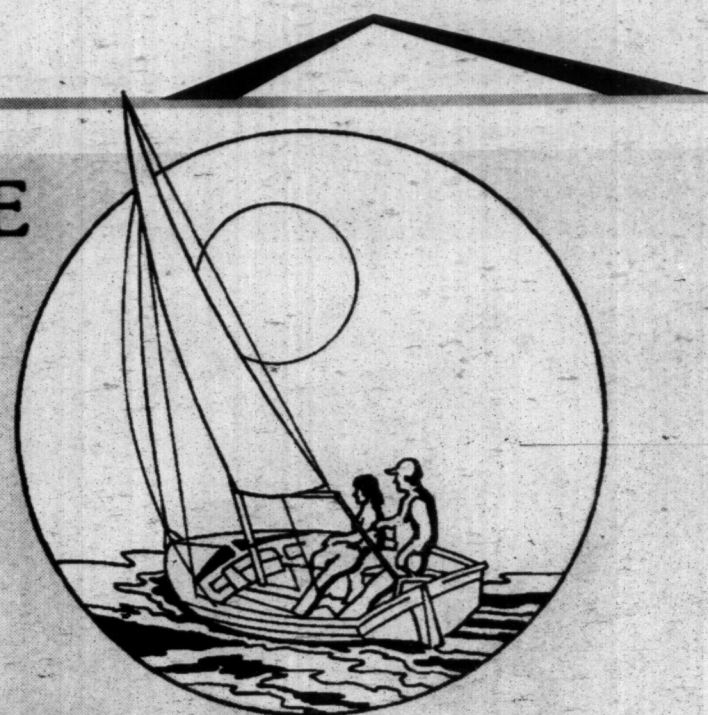


# 1995 GROWING CHURCHES CONFERENCE

*Gulfshore Baptist Assembly*

6-8 • July 10-12 • July 20-22 • July 27-29

for training all Brotherhood, Discipleship Training, Sunday School, WMU leaders, Pastors and Staff



## SESSION II 8:30 a.m.

er  
or Worship  
e with  
with Children  
... As a Girls  
er?  
Special Plan  
Children  
and Girls in  
Dogs...(Can  
Learn)  
o The Family  
ch Ideas that  
oaches To  
uth  
n Mission

## SESSION III 9:50 a.m.

What Do I Do... As a  
Preschool Discipleship  
Training Leader  
  
Musical Activities for  
Preschoolers  
  
Children in Crisis  
  
What Do I Do... As a  
Children's Sunday School  
Leader  
  
Multi-cultural Ministries in  
Mississippi  
  
Sunday School ASSISTeam  
Training  
  
New Member Training  
  
WIN School  
  
Involving Teenage Girls in  
Missions  
  
Involving Teenage Boys in  
Missions  
  
General WMU  
  
Pastors  
  
Secretaries  
  
Deacon Family Ministry

## SESSION IV 11:00 a.m.

Preschool Make It and Take  
It  
  
TeamKid for Preschoolers  
  
R.A.s  
  
Who are "Today's  
Children?"  
  
Telling Bible Stories to  
Children.  
  
What Do I Do... As a  
Children's Discipleship  
Leader  
  
How To Conduct Weekly  
Workers Meetings  
  
Discipling Adults  
  
WIN School  
  
I Want To Experience God  
in a Fresh and Personal  
Way  
  
Women On Missions  
  
Ethical Issues and Answers  
for Today's Adults  
  
Pastors  
  
Secretaries

## SESSION V 7:45 p.m.

What Do I Do... As a  
Preschool Sunday School  
Leader  
  
Missions Development  
  
Hymn Leading in Worship  
  
Musical Activities for  
Preschoolers  
  
The ABC's of Church  
Budgeting and Promotion  
  
Telling Bible Stories to  
Children  
  
TeamKid for Children  
  
Adult Sunday School Work  
  
How To Discover Your  
Spiritual Gifts  
  
WIN School  
  
Youth Workers Forum and  
Fellowship  
  
Creative Ministry Ideas for  
Adults  
  
Ministers Wives

## SESSION VI 8:30 a.m.

Extended Session...Baby  
Sitting or Teaching  
  
What Do I Do... As a  
Mission Friends Leader  
  
Using the Bible with  
Preschoolers  
  
Who are "Today's  
Children?"  
  
Reaching People Through  
the Sunday School  
  
Ministering To The Family  
  
WIN School  
  
Youth Mission Projects  
Near and Far  
  
Youth Issues, Trends and  
the Law  
  
Creative Ministry Ideas for  
Adults  
  
General WMU  
  
Pastors  
  
Ministers Wives

## SESSION VII 9:50 a.m.

Safety and Security for  
Preschoolers  
  
Who are "Today's  
Preschoolers?"  
  
Association Discipleship  
Training Team  
  
Making Music with Children  
  
The ABC's of Church  
Budgeting and Promotion  
  
Criminal Justice Ministry  
  
Introduce Children's Bible  
Drills 1995-96  
  
Building Self-Esteem in My  
Church  
  
WIN School  
  
Youth Ministry Lead Teams  
  
Dealing With Problem  
Youth  
  
Co-ed Missions for Children  
and Youth  
  
Pastors  
  
Ministers Wives  
  
Deacons as Leaders

## 1995 GROWING CHURCHES CONFERENCE LEADERS

### July 10-12

Preacher: Stan Fornea  
Pastor's Conference Leader:  
John McCall  
Music Leader:  
J.M. Wood

### July 20-22

Preacher: Harold Bryson  
Pastor's Conference Leader:  
Rex Yancey  
Music Leader:  
Paul Koonce

### July 27-29

Preacher: Dean Register  
Pastor's Conference Leader:  
Jimmy Porter  
Music Leader:  
Stan Loyd

**BEGINNING  
WITH  
ME.**

als):  
r room): Adult (12 yrs old and above) - \$74.60; Child (2-11) - \$36.05; Baby (child under 2) - \$2.00  
more per room): Adult - \$68.60; Youth (12 yrs - 12th grade) - \$37.60; Child (2-11) - \$21.30; Baby (child under 2) - \$2.00  
Growing Churches Conference, contact Larry Salter of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651.



# MORE Gulfshore.....



## GULFSHORE MUSIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE July 13-15, 1995

Featuring conferences for all church musicians...ministers of music, pianists, organists, and children and preschool choir leaders.

Come ready to learn, to worship and to have fun.

### COST:

"A" Unit - \$80.85 (per person, two in a room)  
"C" Unit - \$74.85 (per person, three or more in a room)

Register with Gulfshore Baptist Assembly at (601) 452-7261.  
For further conference information contact Church Music at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson 968-3800

## Family Retreat

July 25-26, 1995

*Family events for all ages.*

Bring grandparents and senior adults for this experience.

**FREE TIME FOR FAMILIES**  
**Afternoons and all day**  
**Wednesday**

Contact Gulfshore Baptist Assembly at (601) 452-7261 to register for this retreat.

For more program information contact Discipleship & Family Ministry at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson 968-3800.

### COST PER PERSON

Room and Meals	
Class "A" Accommodations (2 per room)	
Adult (12 years old and above)	\$111.35
Child (2-11)	\$54.08
Baby (Child under 2)	\$ 3.00
Class "C" Accommodations (3 or more per room)	
Adult	\$102.35
Youth (12 years old-12th grade)	\$56.40
Child (2-11 years old)	\$31.95
Baby (Child under 2)	\$ 3.00

## GA Mother/Daughter Overnight

1ST & 2ND GRADES ONLY

## CAMP GARAYWA

July 21-22

Fri. 4 p.m. - Sat. 3 p.m.

**\$23.00 per person**

(includes: meals, lodging, crafts & limited insurance)

To register for this retreat, contact CAMP GARAYWA by phone at 924-7034 or by mail at P. O. Box 1278, Clinton, MS 39060



Pray this day.....

May 7-20, 1995

**REMINDER:** we are listing MK birthdays here, and we surely hope that we do not fail to list one you're interested in! And we hope that we do not use an incorrect name for the first name... correspondence will correct that, we hope...the important thing is that we pray.

There is a new book out, CHILDREN OF THE CALL, available at the Baptist Book Store, which will help you know better how to pray for them.

### PRAYER MINISTRY OFFICE

P. O. Box 530

Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904

Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

for school children as they finish their school year	for college students as they finish their school year	for seminary students as they finish their school year	<b>MK birthday:</b> Laura Hearn 5-10-81 BP 1353, Lome, Togo Parents: James and Brenda General Evangelism <b>MK birthday:</b> Micah Thornton 5-10-79 Apartado 58 Bulevares Edo. de Mexico 53140 Mexico Parents: Harold and Susan Financial Administration	<b>MK birthday:</b> Drew Braswell 5-11-92 (Grandson of Bill Sellers) Box 573 Boyle, MS 38606 Parents: Larry and Alicia General Evangelism in Brazil after July	for seminary graduates in their new places of work for the Lord	<b>MK birthday:</b> Jeremy Racey 5-13-76 Casilla 50-D Temuco, Chile Parents: Michael and Annette Theological Education
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
for parents as they plan the summer for their families	that boys and girls will have safe, helpful camping experiences at Garaywa and Central Hills	that adults will be able to attend training conferences at Gulfshore	for summer student missionaries going out into all the world	for people involved in local summer mission activities	for counselors at Garaywa and Central Hills, and staff at Gulfshore	<b>MK birthday:</b> John W. Call P. O. Box 52 Limura, Guyana Parents: Ben and Margaret Agriculture
14	15	16	17	18	19	20

# HOUSE TOPS



## Staff Changes

Thursday, May 4, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Como Church, Como, has called **Philip Andrew "Andy" Brasher Jr.** as pastor. He is a graduate of Memphis State University, Rutledge College, and Bethany Theological Seminary in Alabama. He is married and has two sons.

**Pleasant Hill Church**, Lownes Association, has called **Steve Lammons** as pastor, effective April 30. Lammons formerly served the Sturgis congregation.

**First Church, Starkville**, has called **Lloyd R. Humphrey** as pastor, effective May 1. He formerly served the Wildwood Church in Kennesaw, Ga.

**First Church, Aberdeen**, has called **Paul Matthews** as pastor, effective April 1. The native of New Hartford, N.Y., is a graduate of Troy State University and New Orleans Seminary. The son of a Baptist home missionary, he previously served Gilbertown Church, Gilbertown, Ala.

**H. Cliff Davis of Brandon**, former state director of missions for the West Virginia Conven-

tion of Southern Baptists, has been called to Alaska to serve that state's convention as interim state director of missions. Davis has served as business administrator for Pinelake Church, Brandon. He can be reached at the Alaska Baptist Convention, 1750 O'Malley Rd., Anchorage, AK 99516.

**First Church, Chicora**, (Wayne County) has called **David Roberson** as pastor.

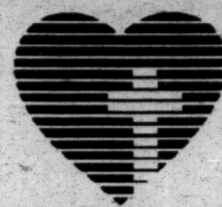
**Bellehaven Church**, Ocean Springs, has called music evangelist **Charles C. Walker** as minister of music, effective April 5. Walker is a native of Hattiesburg, and a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and William Carey College. Hampton Eggerton is pastor, Bellehaven.



Walker

**First Church, Lyman** (Gulf Coast Association), has called **Richie Allen** as pastor. The Gulfport-native is a graduate of Florida Baptist Seminary and Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. Allen formerly served churches in Texas and Dothan, Ala. He will begin his ministry at the church June 3.

## Revival Dates



# Here's Hope.

## Jesus cares for you.

Participate in 90 days of simultaneous Harvest Revivals.

**Cliff Temple, Natchez:** May 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; 7 nightly; Jeff Parker, missionary to Zimbabwe, evangelist; Donnie McIlwain, Natchez, music; Don Womble, pastor.

**Immanuel, Vicksburg:** May 14-17; 7 nightly; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Billy Brumfield, pastor, preaching; Randy Boone, Quitman, music.

**Enon, Grenada:** May 7-10; 7 nightly; Billy Joe Pierce, evangelist; Keith Bennett, Greenwood, music; Al Finch, interim pastor.

**Crosby (Mississippi):** May 5-7; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon dinner on grounds, and 6:30 p.m. Thorn Lear, pastor, preaching; Jeff King, music.

**Foxworth (Marion):** May 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon-

Wed., 7 p.m.; David Green, Columbia, evangelist; Paul Cotton, Ellisville, music; Ladell Blanton, pastor.

**Petal-Harvey, Petal:** May 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 12 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Rex Yancey, Pascagoula, evangelist; Bob Jones, Jackson, music; Gerald Buckley, pastor.

**Fair River, Brookhaven:** May 5-7; Fri., 6 p.m. supper, 7 p.m. discovery service; Sat., 5:15 men's conference, 6:15 children/youth supper; 7 p.m. discovery service;

Sunday, 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, 10:45 worship, 6 p.m. men's conference, 7 p.m. family night; Mike Gilchrist, evangelist.

**Tuckers Crossing, Laurel:** May 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish lunch at noon, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Thompson, Glade, evangelist; Sanny Shows, Ellisville, music; Eddie Bryant, pastor.

**First, Verona:** May 7-11; Sunday, 8:30 and 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Mon., 7 p.m.; Tues.-Thurs., 12 and 7 p.m.; Bill Belva, evangelist; Boyd Tweety, music; David Hamilton, pastor.

## Names in the News

**TAYLORS, S.C. (BP)** — An early Southern Baptist missionary to China who narrowly escaped death during the communist takeover in 1948, died April 7 in Taylor, S.C. **James Alexander Herring**, 90, was the son of David Wells and Alice Rea Herring,

Southern Baptist missionaries to China, 1885-1929. Wells and Alice R. Herring were contemporaries of famed missionary Lottie Moon. Born Feb. 1, 1905 in Taian, China, Herring lived there with his parents until age 10, when he returned to the United States for

his education. He returned to China as a Southern Baptist missionary with his wife, the former Nan Trammell of Belton, S.C., in 1935. After communists closed the country in 1948, the Herrings were reappointed as missionaries to Taiwan. Herring is survived by his wife Nan; two daughters, two sons, and a sister. Funeral services were held April 11 in Taylors.

## Blue Mountain College sets graduation exercises, May 7

Blue Mountain College will hold commencement exercises for 82 students of its 122nd annual session at 3 p.m. on May 7.

There will also be a baccalaureate service at 11 a.m. in the Modena Lowrey Berry Auditorium. The baccalaureate sermon will be delivered by **Thomas M. Vinson**, pastor of Leawood Church, Memphis. A native of Tupelo, Vinson pastored Mississippi churches — including Crossgates, Brandon, and

Colonial Hills, Southaven — for 23 years before moving to Memphis.

The commencement address will be given by Mississippi Appellate Court Judge **Mary Libby Payne** of Pearl. She was founding dean and professor of the Mississippi College School of Law. A life member of the Fellows of the American Bar Association, Payne also received the Mississippi University for Women's Medallion of Excellence award.



Vinson



Payne

## Just for the Record

The Mississippi College Concert Choral will present Arthur Honegger's "King David" on May 7 at 3 p.m. in the Spell Auditorium of Provine Chapel on campus. The choral group will be conducted by Richard Joiner, head of the Department of Music. Jerry Talley, associate pastor at Oak Forest Church, Jackson, will be guest narrator. The concert is free. For more information, call the Music Department at (601) 925-3440.

## Homecomings

**Carmel, Monticello:** May 7; 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing, 1:30; no night services; Robert Dunn, Prentiss, guest speaker; Watchmen, guest singers; Ted Bowlin, pastor.

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**CHURCH RENOVATION SALE.** 68 Pews, pulpit furniture, choir robes, folding machine. Contact Wayne Swafford at Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Slidell, LA (504) 643-6017.

**BAPTISTRY/BATHTUB REPAIR.** Porcelain or fiberglass. No job too large or small. Statewide service. No mileage charge. K&K Bathtub Repair, 118 S. McCrary Rd., Columbus, MS 39702; 1-800-349-2882.

**BIBLIOPHIL** now available in booklet, \$2 including s/h. Order from Charlie Marx, 277 Daisy Ave., Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

**CHOIR ROBES & accessories,** pulpit/judicial robes, paraments. **MURPHY ROBES/Mac's Robes,** Charles McGlocklin, Authorized Dealer. Statewide 1-800-898-MACS.

**SEE THE GREAT** Passion Play in Eureka Springs, Ark. \$31 Pkg for Groups now includes the Best (\$13) Tickets, plus lodging & meals! Where One Call Does It ALL: Keller's Country Dorm Resort (501) 253-8418.

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**SEEKING CHILD** Development Center administrator. Morrison Heights Baptist Church. Call (601) 925-6450 for more information.

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**CHURCH SECRETARY** Position available — South Jackson. Word-Perfect 5.1 exp. necessary. Call (601) 372-5141 for interview.

**BARING CROSS CHURCH,** N.L.R., Ark., seeking resumes for minister of music/education. Send to: Search Committee, 1224 Franklin St., N.L.R., AR 72114.

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Complete Renovations  
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Jackson, MS 601-957-8844



## Uniform Committed to serve



By Greg Potts  
1 Corinthians 9

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God...." We love to quote that verse. It is a reminder of how we are saved. Yet, we normally omit the following verse which reads, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). The purpose of our salvation is that we may glorify God as Jesus lives in us. One way we do that is through ministry.

Paul explains to the Corinthians that, although there are certain privileges he enjoys as an apostle, he is not taking advantage of them so that he may be a better servant. James spoke of the responsibility of those who serve as leaders in the church when he wrote, "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment" (3:1).

**The sacrifice of the servant (vv. 1-7).** In the preceding chapter, Paul had addressed the issue of Christian liberty. There were some in the Corinthian church who felt they were free to do whatever they wanted regardless of how it may affect others. Paul counseled them to be careful not to offend others (8:13).

Paul follows up on that thought in Chapter 9. He asks, "Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?" Paul is asserting that because he is an apostle he has certain rights that go with that position (vv. 3-7), but he is not taking advantage of them.

We must be careful not to misunderstand this text. Paul teaches that those who have been called into the ministry are to receive compensation for their work from the local church. This is as much of a biblical responsibility as missions or evangelism. Unfortunately, many ministers are forced to live on substandard wages due to the insensitivity of their churches. With the exception of housing, which is often provided by a local church, ministers pay the same bills that everyone else does! Paul is not teaching that a man should serve the Lord for nothing, but that he or she may be called upon to make sacrifices for the Lord.

**The ministry of the servant (vv. 19-23).** Paul explains his method for ministry in these verses. He says that he has tried to "become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some." Paul was not suggesting that we be hypocritical but that we strive to understand the difference in people and minister to them where they are in an attempt to win them to Christ.

Some ministers have the mistaken idea that their way of doing things is the only way. If they relocate to a new church they may try to implement the same programs and ideas that worked in another area, but discover they are not as effective. Also, many men, unfortunately, have the idea that they are to rule the church. The pastor is to provide leadership, but not by force! We must accept people where they are in their Christian pilgrimage and work with them.

**The discipline of the servant (vv. 24-27).** One of the key ingredients of the Christian life is discipline. It requires discipline to devote time to Bible study and prayer. It requires discipline to make worship a regular part of your life. It requires discipline to share the gospel with others. It requires discipline to be a faithful steward of what the Lord has given you. Hudson Taylor once said, "A man may be consecrated, dedicated, devoted, but of little use if undisciplined."

The same is true of service. It requires discipline. Paul explains that when one is preparing to run a race he must exercise discipline. The same is true for the Christian servant. If we are to be effective for the Lord, we must be disciplined.

When General Jubal Early brought his Confederate army to the city limits of Washington, D.C., in 1864, he threw the whole city into panic. No one knew who was in charge of the federal forces. No less than five Union generals rode around the city giving orders. When a sixth general sent word he could help, he received this reply, "We have all the generals we want and more; but we could use some privates." The same is true of the army of Christ. Are you committed to serve?

Potts is pastor, First Church, Vancleave.

## Bible Book The Lord's authority



By Sylvia Fleming  
Mark 4, 5

Jesus in this lesson demonstrated his power over nature, man, and even death. He also taught the importance of teaching and ministering to others.

On the same day that Jesus had been teaching through parables by the Sea of Galilee, he told his disciples that they would go to the other side. After the crowds were sent away, Jesus and his disciples left. Jesus lay down and slept, giving rest to his body. During their crossing of the sea, a storm suddenly arose. The suddenness of the storm was nothing unusual for that large body of fresh water.

According to Oliver B. Greene, the surrounding mountains caused a funneling of wind and rain upon the sea at unexpected times. That particular storm was so severe that the disciples awakened Jesus and questioned his care of them. After Jesus had stilled the storm, he then rebuked the disciples. Why did they have so little faith in Jesus? Why were they so fearful when he was in their very midst? At that time, they lacked understanding of the God-man and his eternal attributes.

Next, Jesus was in the midst of another multitude ministering. People came upon one of the crowd — the leader of the synagogue — and told him that his daughter had died. Though that leader was a man of considerable prestige, he was humble, contrite, and submissive.

Many of the rulers — the Sanhedrin, made up of Pharisees, Sadducees, and scribes — were so caught up in their power that they had no use for Jesus, his miracles, his claims. They were not ready to relinquish their power; thus, they relinquished an eternal life that could only come through belief in the eternal God-man. Ultimately, they would be the ones to condemn Jesus to death on a false charge of blasphemy. This ruler was an exception. He did have faith in Jesus Christ.

No matter the time, the place, nor the event, whether it be Noah's time, days of Sodom and Gomorrah, the days of Babylonian captivity, the day of Jesus' crucifixion, the days of modern America, the day of the rapture, or the time of the tribulation, Jesus has always, and shall always have his own people, his remnant.

That ruler of the synagogue was reassured by the words of Jesus, "Be not afraid, only believe" (Mark 5:36). After that, Jesus and three of his most favored apostles — Peter, James, and John — went to the leader's house. As they came near, they saw and heard the weeping and wailing of the mourners. Jesus asked them why they made much ado about nothing. He told them that the child was simply sleeping. The people laughed and scorned him.

In privacy, Jesus spoke to the little girl in his native, childhood, Aramaic language. He who is the Resurrection and Life presented himself to the face of death. He allowed three disciples, an adequate number of witnesses (Deut. 19:15), plus the parents to be present at the raising of the girl from the dead. The child arose and he commanded that the child be fed.

As soon as God creates new life, he provides food to sustain it. In Genesis 1:27, he created man; and in Genesis 1:29, he provided food for him to eat. So with the child, as in Genesis, new life was given; and to the new life, food was there to sustain it. Physical life is to be nourished through food — milk, meats, bread. To the spiritual life, spiritual food must be given. This sustenance comes in the form of fellowship with God through the reading of his Word, talking to him through prayer, and fellowship with spiritual brothers.

To have the character born of Jesus Christ, one must have faith, "... the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1).

Fleming is an English teacher and member of Harmony Church, Louisville.

## Life and Work Changing directions



By Michael Johnson  
Acts 15, 16

Last week we looked at how honest disagreement can occur within the larger community of faith. The compromise agreement reached seemed to be acceptable to both sides of the issue.

That, however, was conflict resolution within a larger group. What about disagreements between individuals? Can the principles followed in Jerusalem now work between Barnabas and Paul?

**Conflict (15:36-39a).** Some time has passed and Paul wanted to retrace his earlier trip and discover how the churches established were doing. In the preparation Barnabas indicated that he had asked John Mark to join them and Paul was vehemently opposed to this. Why? The clue is found in the first trip where Mark had abandoned the group and returned home to Jerusalem (see 12:12 and 13:13).

There has been much speculation as to why Mark had not completed the first journey: youth, inexperience, homesickness, or jealousy of Paul emerging as leader of the group (Barnabas was Mark's cousin; Col. 4:10). The fact remains, however, that since Mark had proved himself to be unreliable in the past, Paul was unwilling to give him a second chance.

**Constructive adjustments (15:39b-41).** The disagreement between the two missionaries was sharp and they saw no way to resolve the situation but to part company. Again, there has been speculation that there may have been deeper disagreement over policy issues such as the full acceptance of Gentiles (Gal. 2:13). Nevertheless, after having been so successful in advancing the faith through the Jerusalem Council decision, these two men parted company.

Even in the midst of personal strife, we can see how the Holy Spirit took this breakdown in relationships and used it for the ultimate good. Barnabas, and later Peter, invested their lives in young John Mark. Tradition dictates that it is from the hand of John Mark that we have the gospel of Mark. Apparently Paul was eventually reconciled with John Mark as indicated in 2 Timothy 4:11.

Neither Paul nor Barnabas allowed this disagreement to hinder their ministries. Each moved on to separate, meaningful work. Eventually, through the grace of God, good was accomplished and relationships were eventually restored. Let this be an encouragement to us all.

**Doors closed by the Spirit (16:6-8).** The Holy Spirit was still with Paul. Silas was provided as a companion (15:40) and Timothy was soon added to their company (16:3).

The experiences in Jerusalem and with Barnabas no doubt affected Paul. While his determination to share the gospel with the Gentiles had not decreased, he was no doubt even more aware of his need to be open to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

We are not surprised, therefore, that when Paul's own plans are met with opposition (16:7), he is open to further direction and guidance. It is good to plan ahead and have goals and dreams, but they will come to naught if we are not willing to submit them to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Just because one door had closed, Paul was certain that another, better one would open. We can face similar situations with the same confidence!

**Called by a vision of need (16:9-10, 12a).** The open door comes in the form of a vision that Paul has while staying in Troas. The Holy Spirit led Paul and his party to Macedonia (modern day Greece), and it is through this action we see in even greater detail how the Spirit will move in the lives of men and women to embrace the gospel.

It is interesting to note that in verse 11 the pronouns change from third person "they" to first person plural "we." It is at this point that we believe that Luke joins the journey and it is from his hand that we have the gospel of Luke and the historical book of Acts we are studying.

In real life, good relationships get broken and sound plans get changed. But those who are continually seeking to be open to the Holy Spirit's leadership will discover that these circumstances can be overcome and greater things can result. Is there an incompleteness or disappointment in our lives that needs to be turned over to the Holy Spirit for healing, and empowered with a new direction?

Johnson is associate professor of Christian education at Mississippi College, Clinton.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



## The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director  
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Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242

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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

DEC. 1, 1994 -  
DEC. 31, 1994

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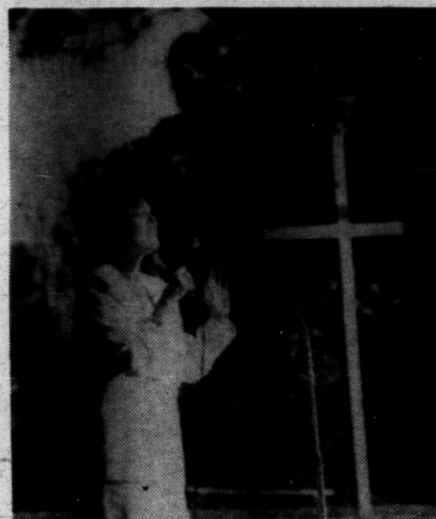
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Easter morning on the India Nunnery Campus of The Baptist Children's Village near Clinton was celebrated with the help of Alicia Brashear of Clinton (above, left) who provided special music for the sunrise service. Ken Anderson (above, right) preached the morning message. The Village family was joined by many guests for the beautiful service commemorating Christ's resurrection. The staff of the India Nunnery Campus hopes to make the service an annual event.

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Mrs. Louisa H. Houchins  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Crosthwait Jr.  
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Rev. Clarence Hughes  
Mrs. Jacquely Meadows, Jamie  
& Kay  
Mrs. Dorothy F. Izard  
Mr. & Mrs. George N. Ford

(to be continued)



15th Avenue Baptist Church, Meridian, and The Baptist Children's Village hosted an area conference on February 27. Village friends came to hear more about the ministry of The Baptist Children's Village. Participants enjoyed dinner, skits by a Village drama team, and a Village ministry update by Executive Director, Ronny Robinson. Lynette Powell and Jessica Sykes are pictured (above, right) sharing God's love. Attendees included alumni Barbara Dennis Gordy and Ronnie Foster (above) who continue to share in their communities about The Baptist Children's Village ministries.



# Trustees express concern for Stewardship's future mission

NASHVILLE (BP) — An official statement from the Stewardship Commission, approved by trustees, stops short of directly opposing a proposal to eliminate the agency and reassign its duties. But the response to the report of the SBC Program and Structure Study Committee (PSSC) notes, "Stewardship Commission trustees and staff are eager to assist Southern Baptists in Stewardship Development, Cooperative Program promotion, and Endowment and Capital Giving as we move forward into the 21st century."

The Stewardship Commission's president expressed without reservation his conviction that dissolving the commission "is not in the best interest of the Southern Baptist Convention."

The PSSC proposal not only would reassign but would split the Stewardship Commission's work. Cooperative Program promotion would become the responsibility of the SBC Executive Committee, while the Baptist Sunday School Board would be responsible for stewardship education and assisting churches in capital fundraising.

Trustee Jason Mori, a layman from Alexandria, Va., said trustees also were concerned dividing the responsibilities of the Stewardship Commission between two other agencies would result in "breaking up the longstanding expertise and a great deal of synergy that currently exists."

The trustees' statement stresses the importance of stewardship development for Southern Baptists in contemporary American society. "It is the deep concern of the trustees that there exists a gross materialistic mind-set in the churches of America today, and in particular among Southern Baptists. According to Fortune magazine, between the years 1998-2002, we will witness the greatest intergenerational transfer of wealth in history. Baby Boomers will inherit some \$2.3 trillion. A Foreign Mission Board study reports the next decade will see \$13 trillion inherited. Without a strong, dynamic ministry in stewardship development with direct linkage to the Cooperative Program and

its promotion, for all practical purposes that generation may be lost to the support of missions."

Similar concerns were shared by Stewardship Commission President Ronald E. Chandler in a report to trustees that preceded the drafting of their official statement. "Twentieth-century Christianity has been captured by the culture of our day," he said. "The consumer-dominated, materialistic mind-set of American society has received an 'acceptable' evaluation in Christian living."

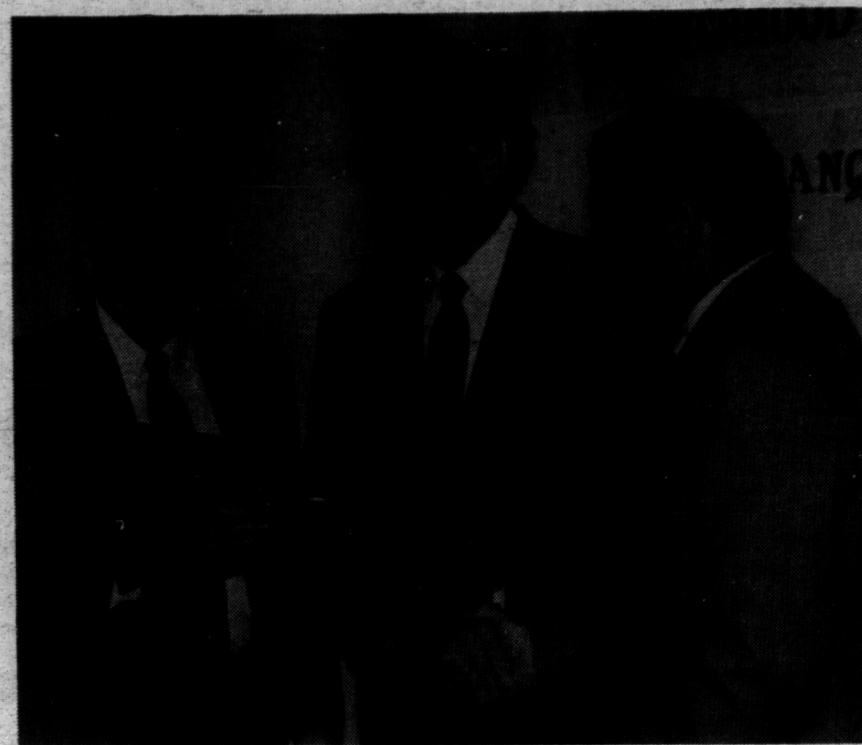
"Greed is called idolatry in the Bible (Eph. 5:5, Col. 3:5). We live in a nation of idol worshipers," Chandler continued. "Now is not the time to lower or dilute the message so needed in our day. Stewardship must be a major emphasis, not just for raising money... but because of what poor stewardship is doing in our hearts and to our values, loyalties, and commitments."

While the Stewardship Commission trustees' statement did not specifically call for Southern Baptists to reject the PSSC's recommendation to dissolve the agency, Chandler expressed his personal conviction that the commission should remain intact.

"My stance is not taken with political overtones nor personal considerations," Chandler told trustees. If the SBC adopts the PSSC proposal, Chandler added, "I will work with those to whom our program assignments are transferred to assure a smooth and orderly transition."

Chandler said the PSSC proposal is not a leap forward to the 21st century, but a step back to the 1950s. "It is not self-evident that a different organization is more effective.... We have tried what is proposed in the past and found that it did not work."

If Southern Baptists want a more effective promotion of mission support and stewardship development, Chandler said, "I ask them to give priority to funding these ministries to a level that will enable whoever receives these responsibilities to do the work."



## Cleveland trustee honored

MEMPHIS — Robert Hill (right), pastor of Calvary Church, Cleveland, was honored April 22 at the close of his eight years of service as a trustee of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission. Hill is joined by (from left) Donley Brown, trustee chairman, and James D. Williams, president of the Brotherhood Commission. (Brotherhood photo by David Nester)

## Conservative spokesman, inerrantist Coppenger is Midwestern nominee

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — He is an articulate spokesman for the "conservative resurgence," an avowed inerrantist, and most probably the next president of Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

Mark T. Coppenger, 46, has been nominated to succeed Milton Ferguson at the smallest of the six Southern Baptist Convention-owned seminaries. The 35-member board of trustees of Midwestern will interview Coppenger and his wife Sharon June 1-2 and then vote on his nomination.

Coppenger has been vice president for convention relations for the SBC Executive Committee since early 1991. In that position, Coppenger has emerged as a national spokesman for the SBC's conservative positions.

If elected, Coppenger makes it plain, he intends the seminary "in

the heartland" to clearly identify itself with biblical inerrancy.

"The seminary needs leadership which not only believes in inerrancy, but also stands for it and administers by it," Coppenger told the trustee search committee in a position letter.

Also, regarding a topic which has been a recent headline at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., Ronnie W. Rogers, a Hot Springs, Ark., pastor and president of the Arkansas Convention, said "in the framework of inerrancy." Coppenger would agree that women should not serve as senior pastors.

Rogers called Ferguson's cooperation with the search committee and tru...



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*My dearest friend is dying of cancer. I want to be involved in the time she has left, but I don't want to intrude. I am also worried about her spiritual standing. How do I deal with my own grief on top of all this?*

Be a giver of small things. "Call me if you need anything" puts the burden on the patient, so take small baskets of fruit, mow the lawn, babysit, run carpools, etc. Give her articles of inspiration that can help with her spiritual standing. Drop by for short talks and offer to have a word of prayer before you leave. If she says, "No thanks," pray as you drive home. Being there is important, and being consistent with Christian love is essential. If she truly sees you mean what you say, she will be more inclined to call on you. Some people's grief is a very private matter, and you must respect that. Mail notes of encouragement and continue to pray for her in your own prayer closet. As for your own grief, take time to mourn your loss through quiet times like walking or talking with a friend. Write down your feelings and give voice to your hurts, anger, and loss. As appropriate, talk about these matters

with your dying friend. You may be able to encourage each other and develop a deeper understanding. This could also be a way to find out more about your friend's spiritual standing. If you don't grieve now, you can be assured that the grief will come at a later time.

*I was raised in a dysfunctional home and lack many life skills others take for granted, like long-range planning and making my dreams come true. I'm stuck in a day-to-day survival mode. Help!*

Admitting you have a problem is the first step in solving it. The next step is to talk with someone about breaking the cycle into which you were born. (All of us come from some form of dysfunctional home; we're all sinners and no families are perfect.) By talking with a counselor or good friend who will hold you accountable for the goals and dreams you want to accomplish, you will develop the objectivity to see things from a different perspective. You will also find encouragement. You're on the right track, and you'll win the race if you keep your eyes focused on the goal and not on your past (2 Tim. 4:7).

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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NAH Z LDNAR SDOZCL FGCVC.TVO QTOH, MDT  
DNLD GANUQGH YG, PTO LDNL DG STVALGH  
YG PNZLDPVQ, KVLLZAE YG ZALT LDG YZAZC-  
LOB;

PZOCL LZYTLDLDB TAG: LMGQWG.

This week's clue: L equals T.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalms Thirty: Four.

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